(b) whether the present production of natural gas is 61 MMSCMD and will have to increase by 650 per cent over the next 25 years to meet our requirement; and

(c) if so, how do Government plan to deal with this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Currently, the natural gas available for sale is in the order of 65 to 67 million standard cubic metre per day (MMSCMD).

(c) The supply—demand gap will have to be met through import of natural gas/liquefied natural gas (LNG) and by increased exploration efforts. There is no restriction on the import of natural gas/LNG and there are several projects on the anvil in this regard. Recently several exploration blocks have also been awarded to various parties under the New Exploration Licensing Policy.

Gas supply through pipeline from Iran

868. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to acquire Gas from Iran through setting up a pipeline via Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Pakistan authorities have agreed for the proposal; and

(d) if so, the details of the terms and conditions for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) The Government of Iran has sent a preliminary proposal to supply natural gas to India through an onland pipeline route passing through Pakistan. An Indo-Iran Joint Committee on Transmission of Gas consisting of representatives of the Governments of Iran and India has been constituted to examine all aspects of the pipeline proposed by the Government of Iran.

(b) to (d) The proposal of the Government of Iran is in a preliminary stage. Also, there has been no formal communication from the Government of Pakistan.